



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

MAJOR EDWARD DALE.

Lancaster County, Virginia, 1655-1694.

Data collected by his grandson in the tenth generation—

Dr. Joseph Lyon Miller, Thomas, West Va.

Among the royalists who sought refuge in Virginia after the death of King Charles I. were Sir Grey Skipwith and his brother-in-law, Edward Dale, Gentleman. Sir Grey was the second son of Sir Henry Skipwith, Bart., of Prestwold, Leicestershire, whose ancestry goes back in an unbroken line to the time of the Conqueror; and Major Dale was probably a member of the ancient family of Dale of Northamptonshire and London, as he used the same arms.

They belonged to that class of emigrants to Virginia, who, Mr. Bruce says, "Enjoyed an influence in the social life of the Colony which was out of proportion to their mere number. Some of these men, as we have seen were persons of rank in England; others were untitled officers in the royal armies, and with few exceptions all were sprung from the English landed gentry. They brought with them to Virginia the tastes and habits of the society in which they had moved, and to which they had belonged by birth as well as by association, the society of the English country gentleman."

They settled on the Rappahannock River, but on different sides of it; Sir Grey Skipwith in what is now Middlesex county, and Major Dale on the north side in Lancaster county. In a few years Major Dale began taking a prominent part in county affairs, and from 1655 to 1674 served as clerk of Lancaster nineteen years, justice of the county court fourteen years, high sheriff four years, and member of the House of Burgesses two years.

Edward Dale appears as clerk of Lancaster county in 1655 and continued in this office until May 10th, 1674, when John Stretchley took the oath of clerk of the county. March 8th, 1670, Major Dale's son-in-law, Thomas Carter, Sr., was

commissioned deputy clerk. In colonial days the clerk was probably the most important officer next after the county lieutenant, and besides belonging to the local gentry, was one of the leading men of his county, which needs no other proof than the mention of such names as: Sir Marmaduke Beckwith, Sir Grey Skipwith, Peter Beverley, Benj. Harrison, Wm. Nelson, Wm. Stanard, Robert Bolling, Wm. Randolph, Wm. Fitzhugh, Thomas Lee, and dozens of names of other men of equal prominence who were clerks of their respective counties.

In the years 1670, 1671, 1679 and 1680, Edward Dale was commissioned High Sheriff of Lancaster. He was a justice of the county court from some time prior to Feb. 8, 1670, to April, 1684, when his name appears for the last time among the members of the court, which included such men as Col. John Carter, Mr. David Fox, Mr. Wm. Ball, Capt. Thomas Carter, Mr. Raw Travers, Mr. Rich. Parrott, and Mr. John Curtis. In November, 1677, and January, 1682-3, Edward Dale received pay in tobacco for services as a Burgess—eight thousand eight hundred and fifty-five pounds for each service. His part in Bacon's Rebellion seems to have been that he represented Lancaster county "Att a Committy (by Order of Ye Grand Assembly) for Laying a Levy in the Northern Neck for ye charge in Raisinge ye forces thereof for suppressing ye late rebellion mett at Capt. Beales ye 14th of August 1677 being present Mr. Wm. Presley, Maj^r Ed. Dale, Major Isaac Allerton, Mr. Peter Presley, Coll. Wm. Travers, Coll. Sam^l Griffin, Coll. George Mason, & Mr. Martin Scarlett."

The Lancaster records show no deed for land to Major Dale prior to May 6, 1663, when he had a certificate for 750 acres by assignment from Rich. Perrott; and on the same date five hundred acres by assignment from Richard Merryman. March 30th, 1662, John and Margaret Paine sold to Richard Merryman "the planatation whereon Mr. Edw^d Dale now liveth." Feb. 2, 1664, Major Dale had a deed from Edward Lunsford for three hundred and fifty acres of land on the Easternmost branch of Corotoman River, and Dec. 14th, of the same year, a deed from Wm. Chappan for seven hundred

acres on the same branch, for the two of which he paid eleven thousand pounds of tobacco. Feb. 1, 1668, he paid Wm. Cappel, "Maryner," twelve thousand pounds of tobacco for five hundred acres; and in May, 1681, the same amount to Thomas Chetwood, merchant, for six hundred acres. Of this thirty-four hundred acres he deeded five hundred to his daughter, Catherine Carter, in 1674, and six hundred acres to his daughter, Elizabeth Rodgers, in 1677. His home plantation in St. Mary's White Chapel parish contained some six hundred acres, and the remainder he sold before his death. The tax lists show that Major Dale kept from two to four servants, so he could not have done much farming. In all of his deeds and other papers he was always styled, "Edward Dale, Gentleman," a title that in the seventeenth century was defined with legal precision and its use not permitted to any one who had not the right to it.

The proof that Diana Dale was a daughter of Sir Henry Skipwith is a letter from her brother, Sir Grey Skipwith, who lived on the south side of the Rappahannock in what is now Middlesex county. This letter, recorded in Lancaster Record Book No. 2, page 364, reads as follows:

"Major Edward Dale.

Brother Dale.

Pray do me the favor to acknowledge in court on my behalf two bills of sale for Cattle made to Mary Bayley and this my note shall impower you for the doing of it as full as any letter of attorney,

S^r I have not else only our love presented to y^rselfe and my sister."

S^r I am your lo: brother

Grey Skipwith.

Febr: primo 1664."

The above letter makes it easy to say that Diana Dale was one of the two daughters of Sir Henry Skipwith, Bart., Prestwould, Leicestershire, and his wife Amy, who was daughter and co-heir of Sir Thos. Kempe, Knt. A lengthy genealogy of the Skipwiths may be found in any standard work on Eng-

lish baronets. Sir Henry seems to have been a man of parts and is spoken of by Barton in 1622 as follows: "Sir Henry Skipwith, Knt. I can not pass over in silence, for that his so many good parts—his person, his valour, his learning, his judgment, and wisdom do challenge more than I can express. Among the rest, yet I can not omit to speak of his witty conceits in making fit and acute epigrams, poems, mottoes, and devices."

Edward and Diana Dale were the parents of two daughters who grew to maturity:

1. Katharine, who married Capt. Thomas Carter, Sr. of Lancaster county, sometime prior to 1674 as shown by a deed dated Dec. 8, 1674, from "Edward Dale of the County of Lancaster in Virg^a. gent^l." in consideration of a marriage already had between "Thomas Carter of the same County Merch^t. and Katharine daughter of the sd Dale," which conveys to Carter and wife five hundred acres of land whereon the Carters were then living. On the same day they also received from Major Dale a negro boy named Dick, a gray mare and two year old colt, six young cows and their calves, and half the hogs on the plantation. Diana Dale signed both deeds. The Carter Genealogy will follow in later issues of the WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY.

2. Elizabeth, who married William Rodgers of Northumberland Co., as, March 12, 1677, Edward Dale conveyed to his daughter Elizabeth "now the wife of Mr. William Rodgers, son of Capt. John Rodgers of the County of Northumberland," a plantation of six hundred acres in Lancaster.

Oct. 7, 1687, Major Dale and wife in consideration of the love they bore their daughter Katharine wife of Mr. Thomas Carter conveyed to them two negro boys. After death of Carter and wife the boy named Robin to go to his grandson Edward Carter, and the boy James to the rest of his Carter grandchildren.

August 4, 1694, "Edward Dale of the County of Lancaster in Rapp^k. River in Virg^a. Gent." made his will, and after commending his soul to God and his body to be decently buried

“wthout any wine drinking” disposes of his worldly estate as follows:

1st. If his wife should happen to outlive him he gives to her the profit of his entire estate—“it being * * * had to her as an honest woman, a Gentlewoman, and a great many years my wife.”

2nd. After the death of his wife he gave his home plantation with all tools, etc., to his grandsons Peter and Joseph Carter, equally; also a negro, James to Peter Carter and a negro Robin to Joseph Carter, when they should arrive at the age of twenty-one years. In January 1711/12 they divided their grandfather Dale’s plantation in St. Mary’s White Chapel Parish.

3rd. To granddaughter Elizabeth Carter his best bed and furniture and a trunk.

4th. To daughter Elizabeth Rogers twelve pounds in full of all claim upon his estate.

5th. The residue of his estate to be divided equally between his grand children Elizabeth, Catharine, Peter and Joseph Carter—all of whom were at that time under legal age.

6th. His daughter, Katharine Carter to have control and use of entire estate until the above named grandchildren should become of age.

Appoints daughter Katharine Carter and grandson Edward Carter executors of his will. It was probated March 16, 1695.

The Inventory of his personal estate returned to court March 30th, 1695, amounted to ten thousand six hundred and seven pounds of tobacco, and included besides the usual household and plantation furniture, a parcel of books, 3 pictures, two silver dram cups and a pair of silver tongs.

The original will of Major Dale, like all other original papers of his, has disappeared from the Clerk’s office at Lancaster Court House, but fortunately his son-in-law, Thomas Carter, sealed his will in 1700 with a seal that has been recognized as the crest of the Dales. Mr. William Armstrong Crozier, a well known New York authority on genealogy and heraldry, says the seal shows the crest of the Dales of Northampton and London and gives the reading as follows: “On a

chapeau gules turned up ermine, a heron argent, beaked, legged and ducally gorged or." The arms are: "Gules on a mount vert. a swan arg. Membered and ducally gorged or." At a visitation of the heralds from the College of Arms in 1613 these arms were confirmed to William Dale, Esq., of Brigstock Co., Northampton. He was the third son of Robert Dale of Wencle, Co. Chester—the first and second sons being Robert, Jr., of Wencle, and Roger of Inner Temple, London. Edward Dale of Virginia was probably a son of one of these.

A three-quarter length portrait of Edward Dale handed down in the Carter family shows him as a portly brown-eyed gentleman dressed in black velvet coat, dark red waistcoat, cream colored satin breeches, and a powdered wig. The original portrait was taken to Chicago at the close of the Civil War by Col. Thomas Carter and was lost in the great fire in that city, but a copy is now owned by Dr. J. L. Miller, Thomas, West Va.

Major Dale was a man who held tenaciously to his opinion, and one who demanded from all the proper respect due to his social and official position—characteristics that are illustrated in the old records at Lancaster Court House. In the fifteen years that he was a member of the county court he was the only one of the Justices who frequently dissented from the opinion of the others and had his dissensions recorded. February 8th, 1670, he routed the entire court and caused them to adjourn without transacting any business, as besides the date and names of the justices the only record made of the meeting is as follows: "Mr. Edward Dale, Clerk of this county & in Commission for the peace, and high Sher^t. of this County conceiving himself sufficiently qualified to sett covered in Court w^{ch} some of ye sd Justices would not allow of they did thereupon adjourn till ye second Wednesday in the month next."

Another that has come down through his descendants related how in his loyalty to the King he transgressed one of the strongest of Virginia's unwritten laws—the law of hospitality. The story relates that upon one occasion a stranger stopped at Major Dale's house one day just about the dinner hour. His

horse was sent to the stable and he was invited to join the family at the dinner just then served. When they were seated at the table the visitor immediately bowed his head and offered a long puritanical prayer in which he asked rich blessings for Oliver Cromwell, and especial curses for King Charles II. This so incensed Major Dale that he ordered the man from his table, sent a servant for his horse, and told him to hunt his dinner elsewhere.

HEALE FAMILY.

This family seems to begin in Virginia with 1 Nicholas¹ Haile, of York County, planter, who, in 1654, gave a power of attorney to Dr. Thomas Roots in Lancaster County. He is succeeded in the record by 2 *George Heale*, who executed a power of attorney, November 8, 1677, and whose wife is named as Ellen in 1682.

2. GEORGE² HEALE (Nicholas¹), was sworn justice of Lancaster Court in 1684; and in 1695 and 1697 he served as a member of the House of Burgesses. He names in his will, dated December 30, 1697, and proved in Lancaster County, January 12, 1698, son-in-law, Mr. William Ball, and issue: 3 Nicholas; 4 *George*; 5 John; 6 Joseph; 7 Ellen. His widow, Mrs. Ellen Heale, made her will October 15, 1710, which was proved in Lancaster County, December 13, 1710. She names issue in addition: 8 Elizabeth; 9 Sarah; 10 *William*; 11 Hannah, wife of Captain William Hall. According to a division made of her estate, January 5, 1710, daughter, Ellen Heale, married Opie, probably John Opie, who married secondly Anne Metcalf, and was father of Lindsay Opie below.

4. GEORGE³ HEALE, (George², Nicholas¹), married Catherine Chinn, daughter of John Chinn and Elizabeth Travers,* daughter of Colonel Raleigh Travers, (see wills of John Stretchley, 1698; Alice Stretchley, 1701; John Chinn, 1692; William Fox, 1717, and QUARTERLY IV., p. 16.) His wife was a sister of Ann Chinn, who married William Fox. George Heale made his will, and it was proved September 23, 1736.

* Elizabeth Travers married 2dly. John Carter, elder brother of Robert (King) Carter.



PORTRAIT OF MAJOR EDWARD DALE,
(IN THE POSSESSION OF DR. JOSEPH LYON MILLER, THOMAS, W. VA.)

SEE PAGE 196.